GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

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A TAXICAB RIDE IN FUNCHAL, MADEIRA. (See Bulletin No. 5)

At this cab stand one engages a running car for a quick, exciting ride down the hill. Coming back in a bullock sledge seems all the slower by contrast.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Cannes: Rendezvous of Fashion and Premiers

FOR true appropriateness Cannes might better be chosen for a discussion of Irish affairs than for an attempt to solve European financial problems. This Mediterranean winter resort at which the Allied Supreme Council is meeting has its tie with Ireland because it was in a monastery on a little island just off the Cannes shore that St. Patrick received the religious training which fired him with missionary zeal and led to his conversion of the Irish.

But there is an eminently practical reason for any meeting at Cannes in the winter and especially a meeting of Londoners and Parisians. While cold fogs hang over London and the mercury is low in Paris, Cannes, flooded with sunshine, protected from northern winds by a crescent of hills at its back, and with its shore bathed by the warm waters of the Mediterranean, is one of the most delightful spots in the reach of residents of the Old World.

Sapphire Waters and Emerald Isles

Although the French Riviera is supposed to begin at Marseilles, there are lovers of this beautiful coast who feel that not until one has passed eastward of the promontory formed by the Esterel hills so that the glorious bay of Cannes breaks into sight has he really reached *La Cote d'Azur*, as the French call their playground of wealth and fashion. The waters are like sapphire, and in them, several miles off shore, nestle two low-lying, verdure-covered islands. They are the Iles de Lerins—Lero and Lerina to the Romans, and to the French, Ste. Marguerite and St. Honorat.

St. Honorat founded in 410, on the smaller of the two islands which bears his name, the monastery in which St. Patrick studied and which was one of the fountains of learning and missionary effort during the Middle Ages. According to a legend the island was infested by countless snakes and St. Honorat miraculously drove them out—an example which his follower, St. Patrick, is supposed to have put to good use in Erin. A modern romance clings about the island of Ste. Marguerite, for in its fortress was confined for twelve years that mysterious figure of French history, the Man in the Iron Mask.

Colored Crescent in a Blue Sea

It is from the Islands of Lerin, or better still, from a boat en route to them, that the best view of Cannes can be obtained. From that vantage point the town and its surroundings form a pleasantly colored crescent rising from the blue sea, white villas dotting its green slopes, while to the north amid a purple haze rise the summits of the Maritime Alps.

The vogue of Cannes is a matter of the prosperous late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The town was little more than a hamlet in 1834 when Lord Brougham built a villa there in which to spend his declining years. He became an assiduous advocate of Cannes climate and scenery and to him much of the rapid increase in popularity of the place is due. A statue to him occupies the principal plaza of Cannes.

Present-day Cannes is largely a community of stately and expensive villas

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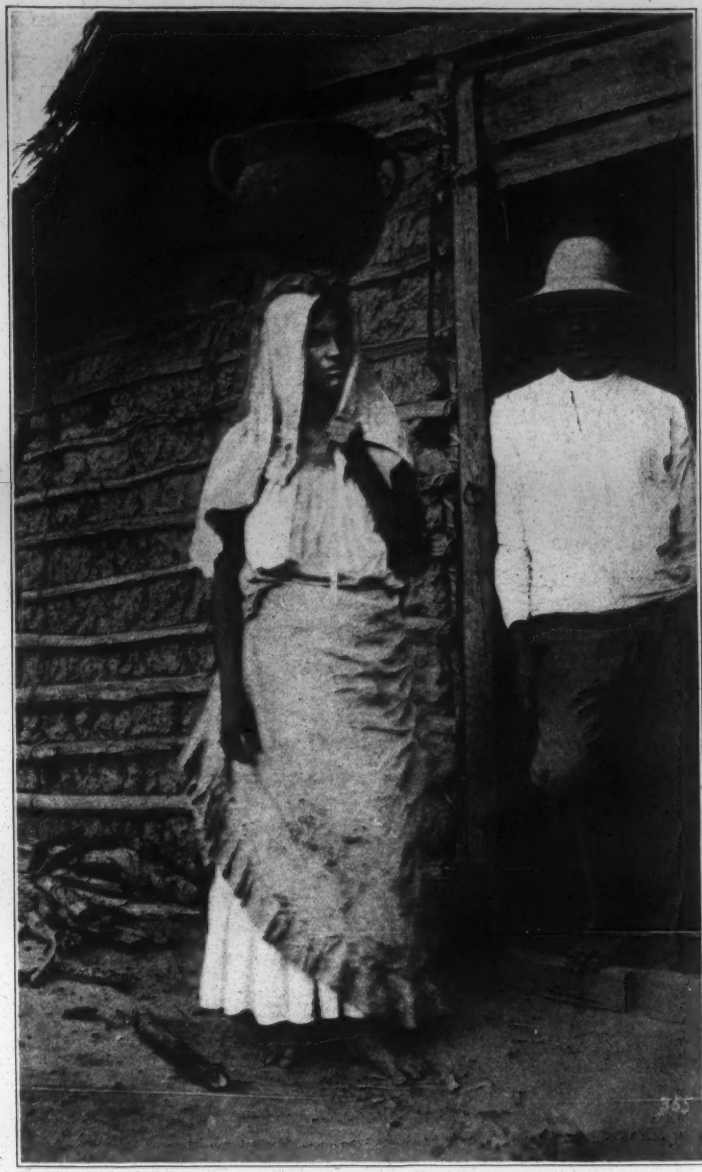

NATIVE TYPES, HONDURAS. (See Bulletin No. 3)

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The Dollars and Cents in Raindrops

RAIN may be imagined as the oil which lubricates the world's economic machinery.

With the smallest estimated cotton crop since 1893, and with other important crops below their average, drought is cast as the villain, or at least as an accomplice, in this world drama of production. The difference a few drops may make in humanity's scheme of things is strongly emphasized.

Everybody realizes in a general way that the world depends on rainfall and fertility for food; there are very few, perhaps, who even approximately appreciate how comparatively little the farmer actually does in the great process of crop-growing. To plow millions of acres furrow by furrow, to spend millions of dollars on fertilizers, and to reap and gather and thresh, is no mean task. And yet compared with the part that Nature plays in the process, man's work seems a very slight labor.

If Raindrops Came "By the Gallon"

For instance, it takes about 20 inches of rainfall to grow a food crop under our general farming methods, which means about 2,260 tons of water to the acre. That seems a preposterous figure, but the doubter can easily demonstrate its correctness. Suppose the American farmer had to haul the water his ground must have to give him a good crop, and that the distance and freight rate were the same as the average railroad haul and rate in the United States. On that basis, it would cost him more than $4,000 an acre to water his place.

But not only would his water bill be nearly half a million dollars on a 100-acre farm, but his fertilizer bill, also, would amount to a neat little sum. It is estimated that in the process of normal evaporation, soil water presents the rootlets of its neighborhood with about fourteen pounds of ammonia a year to the acre. Also, it gives them some 57 pounds of potash. With sulphate of ammonia costing only 2 cents a pound (it cost 5½ during the war) and a hundred pounds of the sulphate required to contribute 17 pounds of ammonia, it will be seen that the process of evaporation gives the rootlets $1.65 worth of ammonia to the acre.

An Automatic Fertilizer

When the World War cut off German supplies of potash and it soared to $400 a ton, geologists scoured the United States for the priceless fertilizer. Yet the process of evaporation generously hands out more than half a hundredweight to the acre, in war and peace. This automatic fertilization is worth an additional $2.50 an acre to the farmer at present prices, and would have cost him $10 an acre at war prices.

From this it will be seen that the $12 to $25 an acre that it costs the average farmer to grow wheat is a small figure indeed, compared to what he saves by having Nature as his water wagon and fertilizer source.

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and modern hotels. The fifty or more hostelries, in fact, are supposed to include some of the best in Europe. Most of the villas are built of local white stone so soft that it is sawed rather than chiseled into blocks. A distinguishing feature of Cannes is its spaciousness. Most of its villas and hotels are surrounded by extensive grounds and gardens and it is considered perhaps the most nobly built of the Riviera resorts.

A Favorite with Crowned Heads

From the days of Lord Brougham the dominant note of Cannes as a resort has been its exclusiveness and its aristocratic tone, in which regard it has been somewhat in contrast to the more turbulent and more democratic Nice and the more "sporty" Monaco. One cynical writer has drawn the contrast epigrammatically by saying that "Cannes is of the world, Nice of the flesh, and Monaco of the devil."

Among themselves the younger of the fashionable winter sojourners at Cannes carry on an eternal round of balls, "at homes," garden parties and picnics, but there are many of the older members of the colony who live in quiet dignity in the seclusion of their shrub-embowered villas. The town has been the favorite Riviera winter resort of many notables, including Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, and numerous lesser lights of the various courts of Europe.

Equipped for British Sports

The large British colony at Cannes has resulted in a marked anglicizing of the place. Nearly all the hotels and many of the villas have their tennis courts, and there is an excellent golf club and a polo ground. In the spring there is a racing meet on the Cannes race course and regattas in the harbor.

In late years something of the extreme exclusiveness has passed from the atmosphere of Cannes. A municipal casino has been erected in which those not members of exclusive clubs may seek amusement. Music and food are available and those wishing to try their fortune without making the short journey to Monte Carlo may place their bets on the "little horses" which cavort around their diminutive race course.

In spite of its many letters Cannes is properly pronounced as a single syllable, like the English verb "can."

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Our Newest Neighbor Republic

COFFEE made for culture, bananas for world neighborliness, and volcanoes fertilized the soil for the new Republic of Central America. Such generalizations leave many facts untold, but this one provides a dependable handle for essential factors in the development of the three states, Guatemala, Honduras and Salvador, which recently were made into the newest American Republic.

This new nation has an area of approximately that of Colorado and a population greater than that of Massachusetts. Its mapped outline resembles nothing so much as a sleigh, with the runners on the Pacific Ocean and British Honduras perched in the driver's seat. Its surface conformation may be compared to an *A* tent, with one side sloping much more gradually than the other, and this longer side sagging and almost touching ground toward its edge.

Where Atlantic is North of Pacific

One's geography gets twisted in thinking of Central America as being to the south of us; which is well enough, if it be remembered that an east and west line running through the new republic could touch Nicaragua and Mexico at the ends, and that going from the Atlantic to the Pacific means a trip due south.

The ridge pole of the Guatemala Andes, as the Central American cordillera sometimes is called, lies much closer to the Pacific than to the Atlantic. Along this range volcanoes go skyrocketing with disconcerting frequency. Earthquakes wipe out cities, at times, as when Guatemala's capital was all but destroyed five years ago, and San Salvador has won the nickname of "the swinging hammock." Yet volcanoes are the friends of these states. They are veritable gushers of elements which, entering into the soil, have made the vegetation luxuriant.

Bananas Couriers of Civilization

The sagging side of our imaginary tent slopes gently toward the Atlantic. Toward its edge are the lowlands which Cortez naively described as "covered with awfully miry swamps." Scattered tribes of primitive Indians and refugee negroes from the West Indies once eked out an isolated existence here. Now the region is blanketed with banana fields. This crop has bound the Caribbean side of Guatemala and Honduras to the United States by those invisible but enduring ties, steamship lines.

The nickname "Guatemala Andes" does not indicate that these mountains are a continuation of the South American Andes, nor are they the southern foothills of the Rocky Mountains. It has been pointed out that should the major continental ranges be extended in their normal directions they would pass each other, in the latitude of Guatemala, some 2,000 miles apart.

What sugar was to Cuba during the second decade of the twentieth century, coffee was to Guatemala and Salvador during the last decade of the nineteenth. The breakfast beverage of millions of Americans helped erect magnificent public buildings in Guatemala City and San Salvador, and placed pianos, phonographs, and other luxuries in many a Central American home. It likewise sent a suddenly increased number of Latin Americans to colleges and universities of the United States to return better equipped for leadership in those political and civic ideals which their countrymen already were trying to follow.

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THE BEAUTIFUL LOCATION OF QUIRIGUA, GUATEMALA

Americans go into tropical spots like this for two reasons. One is to study the civilization that flourished here before Columbus came. The other is to obtain chicle, for the manufacture of chewing gum, from trees which grow abundantly in this region.

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Japan's Place in the Pacific

JAPAN, which, from a position of isolation in the Asian seas, has emerged to become one of the dominant factors in the Pacific, might be termed the narrower and less compact Britain of the Far East.

Like the British Isles, the Japanese Islands form the fringe of a great continent; both were in the hands of petty kings and grew into a centralized nation; both looked abroad for expansion; and both have conceived of their safety and future prosperity as dependent largely on sea power.

Has Remained Center of Empire

But there are differences as well as likenesses between these two island nations. Since she began to grow into an empire Great Britain has resolutely turned her back on Europe in so far as territorial acquisitions are concerned, and has sent her colonists into the remote parts of the world. Japan, on the other hand, has acquired large blocks of the neighboring continent, but has expanded somewhat in other directions also. Great Britain has become the headquarters of a scattered, distant empire. Japan has remained so far the center of her empire with her possessions drawn relatively closely about her.

Japan had ambitions for expansion even in the early centuries, as indicated by the fact that she once conquered Korea, and laid claim in the sixteenth century to Formosa and even the Philippines. The national life, however, when Commodore Perry opened communication with the West in 1854, was confined to the three main southern islands of Japan proper and the small islets near their shores.

Not until the seventies did the government begin development of Yezo, the big island to the north—the Japanese Scotland. Both Russia and Japan claimed Sakhalin, the fifth and northernmost of the large islands of the Japanese group, and there were similar double claims to the Kuril group, a chain of small volcanic islands, comparable to the Aleutians, which stretch from Yezo northeastward to the tip of Kamchatka. In 1875 Russia induced Japan to take the Kurils and relinquish all claims to Sakhalin.

How Japan Increased Her Territory

These expansions to the north were of little value, for the cold, bleak northern lands have never appealed to Japanese colonists. Yezo is sparsely settled, and the Kurils have only a handful of inhabitants. Japan's next step was to the south. In 1879 she annexed the Lu-Chu archipelago, extending from the southernmost of the large Japanese Islands southwestward for 700 miles to Formosa. China laid claim to these small but pleasant and populous islands, as she did to Formosa, but she finally consented to Japan's annexing them.

Japan's victorious war with China in 1895 gave her immediate territorial advantage and in addition greatly heightened her prestige among the nations. China ceded the island of Formosa (now officially known as Taiwan) with its 13,000 square miles of territory and its 3,500,000 inhabitants; and the Chinese peninsula of Liaotung on which battle-scarred Port Arthur is now situated; and acknowledged the independence of Korea. Russia, France and Germany forced

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Made Voting Compulsory

The constitution of Honduras does not regard the ballot as a privilege, but makes voting compulsory upon the male citizen who can read and write. If married he must begin voting at 18; if unmarried at 21. The death penalty has been abolished.

Salvador's coast is wholly on the Pacific side of the isthmus. Guatemala and Honduras turned their faces toward the Pacific, until the advent of the banana crop on their northern plains. This simple fact has had far-reaching historical consequences. Spain's colonial rule lasted until the first part of the nineteenth century. After a short period of independent freedom the five Central American states, Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, formed the Republic of the United States of Central America, which dissolved and gave way to a series of unions, interventions and occasional revolutions, all of which constitute an evolution.

Faced About Toward Atlantic

Governmentally, as well as geographically, Central America has faced about toward the Atlantic. Its transition stages were difficult because it lacked previous experience in republican forms of government, and because of mixed races, for mulattoes abounded in Honduras and the Indians were strong numerically in Guatemala. Salvador, like Costa Rica, has experienced less discord because her people were more homogeneous.

Honduras sends to the United States many "Panama hats" while the so-called "balsam of Peru" is not produced at all in South America, but comes from Salvador. Since plant life is so abundant and various there follows a less pleasurable consequence, numerous insects of uncounted varieties. The bird life also is alluring to the naturalist. Guatemala has the quetzal, more literally a "bird of freedom" than the eagle, since it never lives after being taken captive.

Bulletin No. 3, February 6, 1922.

THE OPEN ROADSTEAD OF FUNCHAL, MADEIRA (See Bulletin No. 5)

"I know of no other place in the world where one can sit under the shade of his own arbor and watch the steamers as they come and go to all parts of the world," says one writer who visited Funchal before the World War interfered with steamship routes.

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Madeira: An Exile Fairyland

IN BEING sent to Madeira the former Emperor Charles and Empress Zita have achieved a good fortune beyond any other fallen monarchs from Napoleon to Wilhelm.

Here is an island where it is nearly always summer, yet sledges are used all the year 'round; which is far from the madding crowd, yet, before the war turned all shipping topsy turvy one might sit in many a Madeiran garden and see vessels from four continents riding at anchor. The island is peopled three times as densely as Connecticut, yet some of its valleys are all but unexplored. The banana tree of the tropics and the oak of the temperate zone grow up together.

Vehicles Go on Runners

The vehicles of Funchal, capital of Madeira, go on runners instead of on wheels, because of its steep and precipitous streets. These often are fitted out as luxuriously as a troika of Moscow or Petrograd, but they are drawn by oxen instead of horses. The characteristic carrier of Funchal, however, is a low, cushion-seated sled, in which a passenger sits and slides to the bottom of the steep streets. The runners are hauled across a grease bag by two attendants before the passenger is started on a bumpy ride over cobbled pavements.

Madeira is the chief island of the Madeira group, which lies about 400 miles west of Morocco. Of the aggregate area of the group, about 315 square miles, all save 15 miles is comprised in the main island, and practically all of the 170,000 inhabitants reside there.

The island is accounted one of the most beautiful volcano-formed peaks in any ocean, and its scenery is on a magnificent scale out of proportion to the size of the tract. One ridge rises to more than 6,500 feet, one valley especially, Curral das Freiras, has the luxuriance and charm more to be expected upon Tahiti or the Marquesas. Steep, rugged cliffs mark the greater part of the coast; and tiny towns huddle at the foot of some of these sheer heights. The inhabitants thereof have learned the art of terrace gardening.

Wine Still Staple Product

The wine that made Madeira famous still constitutes its staple industry, but the annual output has shrunk to a fourth its former bulk. Once it was in demand at fabulous prices and tales still are told of how American clippers carried it around the Horn and back again to age it. In the fifties of the past century a vine disease wrought havoc before it was checked, then physicians declared that Madeira was peculiarly conducive to gout, the war practically cut off one of the world's most cosmopolitan island ports from communication, and the Eighteenth Amendment robbed Madeira of an important market. Visitors still may see the natives carrying this wine to cellars in huge skins slung over their shoulders, and the primitive wine press is used in its making.

Sugar plantations surround Funchal. Cactus is grown for rearing the tiny insect from which cochineal is made for dyestuff. In recent years the popularity of the island as a health resort has created an industry that bids fair to thrive more vigorously as steamship lines resume their normal schedules.

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Japan to relinquish the Liaotung peninsula, and Russia later leased it from China; but the Russo-Japanese War placed it again in Japanese possession, and the island empire now holds it under a 99-year lease. By defeating Russia, Japan further extended her influence both on the mainland of Asia and among the islands. She obtained a protectorate over Korea, a "sphere of influence" in Manchuria, and the cession of the southern half of the island of Sakhalin.

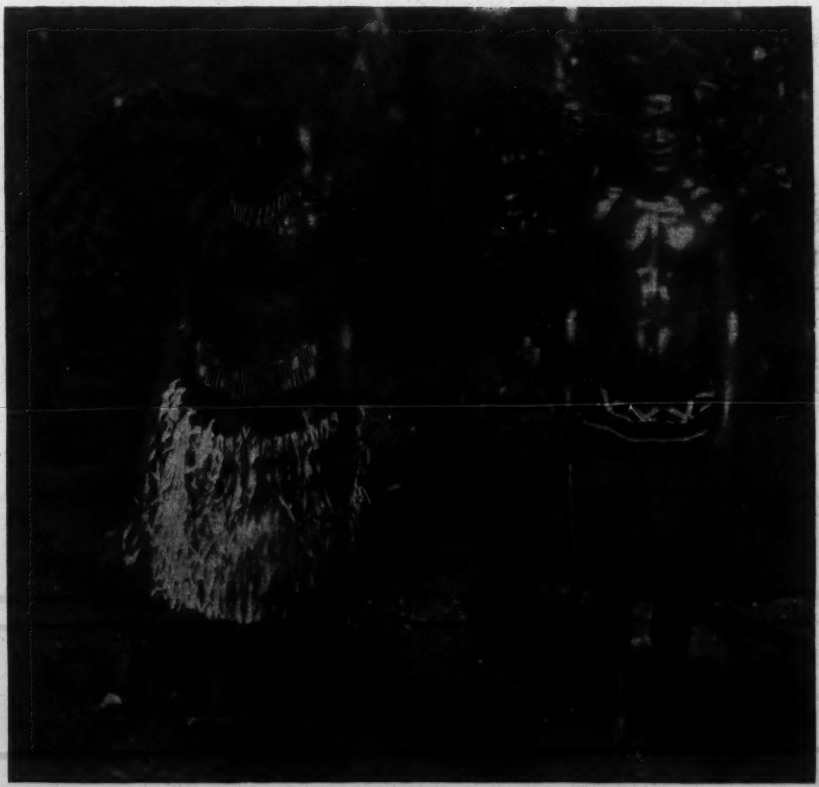
Fares Forth Into Pacific

As a result of the World War, Japan has made further territorial advances north, east, south and west. Her sphere of influence has included eastern Siberia, she has taken over the German lease on Kiaochow in China, and by receiving a mandate for the three archipelagoes of former German islands in the Pacific north of the Equator, she has fared thousands of miles eastward into the Pacific.

The magnitude of Japan's present interests in the Pacific can better be understood, perhaps, by imagining her island territories transferred to the more familiar Atlantic and the directions reversed. The various groups of Japanese islands would then extend from the Shetland Islands southward along the coasts of Europe and Africa for 2,700 miles. Formosa would be situated just north of the Cape Verde Islands. The Mariana or Ladrone Islands of the mandate would occupy a position near the Azores; and the hundreds of islands of the Caroline and Marshall groups (the remaining mandate islands) would string out across the Atlantic from near the Cape Verdes almost to Cuba. Honolulu, under this transposed geography, would occupy about the position of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

As direct outlets for emigration, Japan's mandate islands, because of their restricted area, are of little importance. But as bases to facilitate naval operations and trading activities to the south and east they are comparable in importance to Hawaii as bases for the westward activities of the United States. And Japan means to make the islands "pay for their keep." She is stimulating the systematic planting of coconut groves, and her traders are fast replacing foreign goods in the islands with those of Japan. The islands add only a few thousand miles of territory and some 50,000 people to the Japanese empire. But the scattered points of land "fence in" approximately one million square miles of the Pacific.

Bulletin No. 4, February 6, 1922.



MEN OF PONAPE ISLAND, ONE OF THE CAROLINES

Now under Japanese mandate, except for the famous little Yap, whose sovereignty has been the subject of negotiations. (See Bulletin No. 4.)